

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet and East German Army Activities in Thuringia

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a four-page report giving information on highway convoys, rail shipments and training activities of the Soviet Army and the East German Army (NVA) observed at various locations in Thuringia between 24 July and 15 August 1958. The report gives details, where known, of the number and types of weapons and military vehicles observed.

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EAST GERMANYMILITARY/AIRSoviet and E.G.A. Activities in THURINGEN

(24 July - 15 Aug 58)

I. MILITARY1. 24 JulyMUHLHAUSEN - EISENACH Road 0700 hours

The following E.G.A. column was observed:

1 x 2-axled armoured reconnaissance vehicle
1 x A/Tk gun

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2. 25 JulyEISENACH - GOTHA Road mid-morning

The following E.G.A. column, believed to be from MUHLHAUSEN, was moving along the road towards GOTHA:

2 x armoured troop carriers

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3. 28 Julya) GOTHA Railway Station 1100 hours

The following Soviet transport was leaving for OHRDRUF:

12 x T-34s
8 x light gunsb) GOTHA Railway Station 1115 hours

The following Soviet transport was moving through from ERFURT on the way to OHRDRUF:

[redacted] troops wearing black shoulder boards.

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4. 29 Julya) OHRDRUF Town

No activity of interest.

b) OHRDRUF Railway Station 1300 hours

The following Soviet transport coming from ARNSTADT off-loaded at OHRDRUF:

4 x T-34s
1 x armoured reconnaissance vehicle
1 x W/T truck[redacted] troops wearing black shoulder boards
1 x field kitchen.

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5. 30 JulyKINDL Camp 1230 - 1500 hours

Firing practice with live ammunition was being carried out by infantry formations using mortars and light guns. This training was being carried out jointly by Soviet and E.G.A. infantry. 17 x T-34 tanks were being used in the training movements. KINDL Airfield, alongside the Camp, was deserted.

6. 31 Julya) EISENACH Railway Station 0900 hours

The following E.G.A. transport from MEININGEN passed through in the direction of ERFURT:

6 x AFVs (covered)
several guns (covered)
10 x W/T trucks

b) GOTHA Town

No activity of interest.

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c) "WALTERHAUSEN Strasse barracks BS 8181

Soviet troops were carrying out infantry training. 2 x SU 100s drove into the barracks.

7. 1 Augusta) OHRDRUF Town

All quiet.

b) OHRDRUF Training Area 1200 - 1630 hours

1 x tracked prime mover with 1 x 4-axled low loader without load was standing unattended in the OHRDRUF training area.

c) GOTHA Railway Station 1000 hours

A train was standing in the station with E.G.A. troops [redacted] awaiting departure for an unknown destination.

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8. 4 AugustGOTHA Railway Station 1200 hours

4 x T-34s were loaded by Soviet personnel for an unknown destination.

9. 5 Augusta) OHRDRUF Training Area

The empty low loader was still standing in the training area.

b) OHRDRUF Railway Station 1300 hours

The following Soviet transport, which had been loaded at OHRDRUF, was awaiting departure for Erfurt:

10 x T-34s
3 x W/T trucks
1 x field kitchen

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[redacted] troops wearing black shoulder boards.

At another siding a separate Soviet transport was awaiting departure.

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It consisted of:

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3 x guns (covered) [redacted] troops wearing black shoulder boards.

10. 7 AugustLANGENSALZA - GOTHA Road 0600 hours

The following E.G.A. column was moving towards GOTHA:

1 x T-34
2 x SP guns

[redacted] 25X1

11. 8 AugustGOTHA Town

No activity of interest.

12. 10 - 12 August

There was Soviet rail transport movement by night each night, moving westwards towards MEININGEN. There was also heavy Soviet Autobahn traffic during the same period.

13. 11 AugustGOTHA Railway Station 0600 hours

A Soviet transport consisting of 3 x T-34s [redacted] 25X1 troops left in the direction of OHRDRUF.

14. 12 Augusta) GOTHA Town 0900 hours

No activity of interest.

b) OHRDRUF 1000 hours

Soviet troops were carrying out light artillery training near SCHWABHAUSEN.

c) At CRAWINKEL many new wooden huts are visible from the road and it can be seen that the new buildings extend well back into the woods.

d) HALLE 1800 hours

6 x T-34s entered the WORMLITZER Kaserne [redacted]

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15. 13 Augusta) GOTHA Railway Station 0600 hours

1 x 4-axled low loader, which looked brand new, was being loaded [redacted] with the help of a tracked prime mover equipped with a haulage cable.

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b) GOTHA Railway Station 1300 hours

3 x T-34 tanks were awaiting departure for ERFURT.

c) GOTHA Railway Station 1300 hours

A Soviet train passed through in the direction of MEININGEN, consisting of:

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[redacted] troops wearing black shoulder boards 25X1
 15 x tracked prime movers
 15 x heavy guns (covered), [redacted]

25X1

The heavy guns appeared to have no muzzle brakes. The tarpaulins looked brand new.

- d) GOTHA Railway Station 1700 hours
 3 x T-34 tanks [redacted] with Soviet troops left for OHRDRUE 25X1
- e) KINDL Camp midday
 12 x T-34s were standing near the camp entrance. There were also 4 x heavy guns of about 100 mm calibre. Soviet and E.G.A. infantry wearing camouflage clothing were carrying out joint training.

16. 15 August

- a) EISENACH Town 0600 hours
 3 x Soviet tracked prime movers halted near the railway station
 [redacted]
 Each vehicle had 3 men on the platform, one forward near the driver's cabin manning a machine gun, and 2 seated in rear wearing earphones and having in front of them a metal, flower-like arrangement which was rotatable. The operators' seats rotated with the arrays. 25X1
- b) MEININGEN Town and barracks were almost devoid of troops and activity. The usual single helicopter was standing at the BARBARA Kaserne. [redacted] Soviet troops were 25X1 exercising near DELMAR and DREISSIGACKER, on the western outskirts of MEININGEN.

II AIRSCHLOTHEIM Airfield

1. Communist Party members in the MUHLHAUSEN area were relieved of their normal work between 24 and 31 July to clean up and put into usable condition the runway of SCHLOTHEIM A/F which had become partially overgrown with weeds.
2. 3 August
 4 hutsments approximately at MR 145803 were being guarded by E.G.A. troops.
 No aircraft were visible from the road.
3. 13 August
 2 East German helicopters were standing on the airfield.

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